

## **REMARKS**

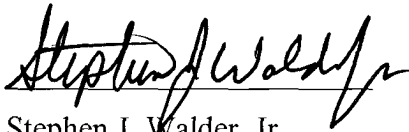
Claim 1 is pending in the present application. By this Preliminary Amendment, claim 1 is amended and claims 2-12 are canceled. The amendments to claim 1 are to incorporate subject matter from canceled claims 2-6 and to recite defining a target configuration for each role “based on a reference model for a software product, the reference model specifying for each role, components of the software product that are to be installed on an entity having the role.” Claim 1 is further amended to recite “defining, in a transition table data structure, for each current state/target state pair of each component of the software product, an identifier of one or more actions required to reach the target state from the current state.” Support for these additional amendments may be found at least on pages 7-8 of the present specification. Moreover, the specification is amended to update the title and abstract in view of the amendments to the claims. No new matter has been added by any of the amendments to claim 1.

Applicants have amended claim 1 and canceled claims 2-12 from further consideration in this application, however Applicants are not conceding in this application that the unamended claims or the canceled claims are not patentable, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only made in an effort to expedite allowance of the present application by focusing claim 1 on one illustrative embodiment of the present invention. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue the unamended claims, the canceled claims, and any other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications. In short, the amendments and cancellations made by this Preliminary Amendment are not to be construed as a surrender of any subject matter set forth in the detailed description of the present invention, the original claims, or equivalents thereof since Applicants intend to pursue such subject matter in one or more subsequently filed continuation or divisional applications.

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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